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When the Germans invaded Russia in 1941, the 1st Panzer Division was part of Army Group North and helped push to the outskirts of Leningrad. In October, the 1st Panzer was shifted to Army Group Center and advanced to the outskirts of Moscow. Then came the Russian counteroffensive and the division spent most of 1942 fighting on the defensive, sometimes having so few tanks it looked more like a motorized infantry division than a panzer division. Even worse, in June of 1942, one panzer battalion was transferred away, leaving the division with only one understrength battalion of nearly obsolete tanks. In January of 1943, the division was finally pulled out of the front and sent to France for a major refit.

Note: this division is shown at full strength (except for the panzers) but for any scenario set in 1942, this division should be depicted at some sort of reduced strength, due to the amount of action it had seen during the year, especially in the early months.